

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 AID-05 /069 W

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O 282100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2531

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5339

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, XK, ES, HO, GT

SUBJ: GOG INITIATIVE IN HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR DISPUTE

1. DURING MY VISIT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA ORANTES AT NOON JULY 28 ON OTHER MATTERS, FOREIGN MINISTER RAISED SALVADOREAN-HONDURAN DISPUTE, SAYING HE FEARED SITUATION COULD DETERIORATE INTO ANOTHER WAR. FOREIGN MINISTER SAI THAT GOG HAD PROPOSED TO GOES AND GOH ON JULY 25-26 THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS BORGONOVO AND PALMA GALVEZ COME TO GUATEMALA JULY 29 FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MODALITIES TO PREVENT FURTHER HOSTILITIES. FACT THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED TO COME WAS ENCOURAGING SIGN, MOLINA FELT. MOLINA SAID THAT WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE COSTA RICAN AND NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENTS HE WOULD PROPOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTERS BORGONOVO AND PALMA GALVEZ TOMORROW A THREE STEP PROCEDURE: (A) WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS IN DISPUTED AREAS BY THREE KILOMETERS, TO TAKE PLACE WITHIN 48 TO 72 HOURS; (B) DISPATCH OF MILITARY OBSERVERS BY NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, ARGENTINA AND UNITED STATES TO VERIFY WITHDRAWAL (FIVE COUNTRIES IN NEWLY ESTABLISHED SUB-COMMITTEE OF COMMITTEE

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OF SEVEN AND (C) RESUMPTION OF TALKS BETWEEN GOES

AND GOH ONCE WITHDRAWALS OF TROOPS HAD BEEN VERIFIED. MOLINA SAID HE WAS INFORMING ME "UNOFFICIALLY" OF THIS PROPOSAL SO THAT WE WOULD BE AWARE OF IT. ADDED THAT OF COURSE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS BORGONOVO AND PALMA GALVEZ WOULD NOT AGREE TO IT ALTHOUGH HE WAS HOPEFUL THEY WOULD.

2. I QUERIED MOLINA WHETHER HE HAD MENTIONED THIS PROPOSAL TO ARGENTINES YET, AND HE REPLIED IN NEGATIVE. I THEN ASKED HIM WHETHER HE FELT THREE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN QUESTION (GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA) COULD PROVIDE MILITARY OBSERVERS IF US AND ARGENTINA DID NOT DO SO. HE REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, ADDING HOWEVER THAT HE FELT IT PREFERABLE FOR US AND ARGENTINA ALSO TO BE REPRESENTED. HE CONTINUED THAT MILITARY OBSERVERS WOULD PRESUMABLY ONLY BE NEEDED FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS TO ACTUALLY VERIFY WITHDRAWALS, AND THAT THEREAFTER THEY COULD RETURN TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. MOLINA WAS NOT SPECIFIC AS TO NUMBER OF MILITARY OBSERVERS HE HAD IN MIND, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE LESS THAN THE 30 OR SO OBSERVERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN 1969.

3. I REMAINED NONCOMMITAL THROUGHOUT AND GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO IDEA OF US PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A SCHEME.

ANDREWS

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